

**Council on Aging Board Meeting
December 14, 2005**

In Attendance:

Chairman Paul Keegan, Vice-Chairman Helene Tanenholtz, Board Members Helen McLaughlin, Tim Swiss, and Secretary John Concordia. Director Sharon Yager was also present. Board member Lillian Goodman was excused.

1. Chairman's Comments:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 10:05am. Minutes of the November 9, 2005 meeting were accepted by the board. Paul indicated that Representative Karyn Polito would be joining the meeting to provide an update on legislation pertinent to our seniors.

2. Director's Comments:

Sharon reported on the SHINE program situation changes under way—CMACA contract as Central Mass. regional manager ends in March, but they hope to extend. The Milford COA will provide the facility training site as new counselors are being recruited to fill open positions. A 6 week training program to be held in Milford or possibly the Fitchburg area is required for new counselors. A serious shortage exists now.

Sharon reported that we may have a new intern on board from Assumption College in December to replace our senior aide-newsletter editor, Layah Lehmann. The newsletter will be reduced to an 8-page document in January as an economy move.

3. Representative Polito now provided a comprehensive report on 3 issues of interest:

- 1. "Circuit Breaker Tax Credit": Senior tax relief***
- 2. Home energy assistance and tax relief***
- 3. Veteran's Benefits: Welcome home bill***

A lengthy discussion was held during which Representative Polito answered many questions from the board. Sharon will have copies of the complete report available at the COA office for anyone interested. Members of the board complimented Representative Polito for her continued interest in and extensive support of senior issues at the State house.

4. Liaison Reports:

Friends of the SCC, Inc.:--Helene reported that the Friends have scheduled a "Social gathering" for Tuesday Dec. 20th at 1pm. New members are invited. Helene commented on the substantial efforts by "The Busy Hands" group in raising money to support the Friends and the COA. Tim reported that the Friends have received 1000 packages of "Thank You" cards from Dom Vignola (he did the lovely art work displayed on the cards). The Friends hope to sell the cards for \$5 per pack.

Elder Services, Worc. /Outreach: Walter Rice submitted his report of activity for November—he continues to have extensive outreach contacts with regard to Medicare D, fuel assistance, and other services. His telephone log reached 228 for the month.

5. Old Business:

Transportation sub-committee: Sharon reported that a meeting was held with WRTA to follow up on last month's discussions on RTA funding assistance in our efforts to provide for ADA riders. No decisions were reached yet.

FY07 Budget:--a brief review of the budget as submitted showed a modest increase from last year. One item of particular interest concerns the availability of new software called "My Senior Center" software designed specifically with the typical day to day operations of a senior center in mind. It has been used by several COAs and may be supported by some State funds if we purchase it at about \$5000. The board also recommended that the budget include sufficient dollars for the next MCOA conference.

6. New Business:

Policy & Procedures:-the "personal conduct" section of this document was reviewed in the light of some recent incidents at the center involving staff confrontations and what appropriate steps should be taken. Some attempts to make the policy more definitive and readily enforceable by the staff and volunteers were explored but no immediate solutions emerged. Further consideration may have to be given to the matter with other town members.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.

***Respectively submitted,
John Concordia, Secretary***